

NAME Cunningham (William; not used) Phelps
~~last~~ (first) (middle)

Biographical Material

Birthplace Humboldt, Kansas Date August 24, 1903

Education Lawrence, Kansas High School, 1921. University of Kansas, Lawrence,
B S in Architecture, 1926. Guptill's Sketch Atelier, New York, 1928 .

Special Comments Profession, Architect. Carr and Cunningham, Architects,
1421 Schofield Building, Cleveland 15, Ohio. Wife is Mary Phillips Cunningham,
active with woodcuts, color prints and ceramics and frequent May Show exhibitor

Awards and Honors (including others than those received in Cleveland)

May Show prizes, Relief cuts: 1933, Mention; 1934, First; 1937, First;
1941, Third; 1948, Mention. Tri State Exhibition, Indianapolis, 1944,
Wood Engraving, Third Prize

Affiliations (artists' societies, etc.)

Cleveland Print Makers (Defunct) American Institute of Architects,

Cleveland Museum of Art

Where Represented in Permanent Collections (Among private collections include only
large and important)

Cleveland Museum, Cleveland Public Library, Library of Congress.

Swedish National Museum, John Herron Art Gallery, Alfred Fowler (Woodcut Society)

Exhibitions (list by years)

Large Annual Shows May Show, 1930, 31, 32, 33, 34, 37, 39, 41, 48. Penn. Academy, Water
Color and Print Annual, 1931, 32, 33, 34, 37. American Block Prints, Wichita, 1933, 34
Society of American Etchers, 1933. Mid*Western, Kansas City, 1932, 35

One Man

Special (or Foreign) Nat. Exhibition Contemporary American Prints, to Sweden 1937-38
American Art Today, N.Y. World's Fair, 1939

Bibliography

Who's Who in American Art

NAME..... Cunningham..... (Wellemer)..... Phelps.....
(last) (first) (middle)

Biographical Material

Birthplace..... Humboldt, Kansas..... Date..... August 7. 4. 1903
Education..... Common School, Humboldt, Kansas, High School, Lawrence, Kan..... U. of Kansas, Lawrence, Ka. (B.S. in Architecture 1926). Septills Sketch Atelier, N.Y. (1928-29)

Special Comments..... Three months trip to Europe. Study of print processes with Kalman Kerbing, Cleveland. Architect by profession - Charles Bacon Rowley Associates, architects (late). Interests: Block Prints, Etching Process, Water colors, Pencil Renderings

Awards and Honors (including others than those received in Cleveland)

Cleveland Museum May Show - H.M. - 1933 (block prints)
1934 - 1st Prize; 1937 - 1st prize; 1941 - 3rd prize " " S.
Print Makers Soc. of California - "8th Color Print of the yr." - Exhibition
Affiliations (artists' societies, etc.)
Cleveland Print Makers (defunct), Color Block Print Makers of Amer
Cleveland Museum, Tau Beta Pi, Sigma Tau, Scarlet

Where Represented in Permanent Collections (Among private collections include only large and important)

Cleveland Museum of Art, Library of Congress, Swedish Museum
Stockholm
Cleveland Public Library, Alfred Fowler, Kansas City

Exhibitions (list by years)

Large Annual Shows..... Cleveland Museum May Show - 1930-31-32-33-34-35-36-37-38-39-40
Winter Water Color Show - 1930-31, 31-32, 32-33.
Traveling Show - 1939-40
Penn. Academy Annual Winter Show - 1936, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41. Dayton Art Institute - 1933-34-35-36-37-38-39-40-41. Soc. of American Etchers - 1933- etc. see attached sheet

One Man..... See attached sheet

Special (or Foreign)..... See attached sheet

Bibliography

1944-45

NAME: Cunningham (William) Phelps
Last (No longer used) Middle
First

Birthplace: Humboldt, Kansas. Date: August 24, 1903

Parents: A. W. & Mary I. Cunningham Address: Lawrence, Kansas

Education: Common School, Humboldt, Kansas
High School, Lawrence, Kansas
University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas
B S in Architecture, 1926
Guptill's Sketch Atelier, New York, 1928-29
Three months trip to Europe, 1929
Study of print processes with Kalman Kubinyi, Cleveland

Special Comments:

Architect by Profession, Registered, State of Ohio #305
Charles Bacon Rowley and Associates, Architects,
Keith Building, Cleveland, Ohio

Art Interests: Block Prints, Etching Processes, Water
Colors, Pencil renderings.

Wife: Mary Phillips Cunningham, Artist, Print Maker and
'Prodder on-er'; A B in Design, Univ. of Kansas '27
One Child--Son--William P. Cunningham (Also inclined)

Awards and Honors:

Cleveland Museum, May Show
1933 -- Honorable Mention -- Block Print
1934 -- First Prize Block Print
1937 -- First Prize Block Print
1941 -- Third Prize Block Print

Print Makers Society of California "Fifty Color Prints of the Year"
Exhibition 1933

Affiliations:

Cleveland Print Makers (Defunct)
Color Block Print Makers of America
Cleveland Museum
Tau Beta Pi, Sigma Tau, Scarab (Honorary Engineering and
Architectural Fraternities)

Where Represented in permanent collections:

| | |
|---|----------|
| Cleveland Museum of Art | Purchase |
| Library of Congress | Purchase |
| Swedish National Museum, Stockholm | Purchase |
| Cleveland Public Library | Purchase |
| Alfred Fowler, Kansas City. (Woodcut Society) | Bribe |

Exhibitions; Large Annual Shows:

Cleveland Museum -- May Show -- 1930, 31, 32, 33, 34, 37, 39, 41
Winter Water Color Show -- 1930-31, 31-32, 32-33
Travelling Show -- 1939-40

Penn. Academy, Annual Water
Color and Print Show -- 1931, 32, 33, 34, 37

Dayton Art Institute; Ohio Print Makers -- 1933, 34, 38 and others

Society of American Etchers, N. Y. -- 1933

American Block Prints, Wichita, Kansas -- 1933, 34

Mid-Western, Kansas City -- 1932, 35 and others

The Print Club, Philadelphia -- 1934 and other years

Exhibitions; Special and Foreign:

Whitney Museum, "Paintings and Prints by Cleveland Artists" 1937

Society of American Etchers, National Exhibition of Lithographs,
Woodcuts, and Block Prints -- 1937

National Exhibition of Contemporary American Prints, 1937-38
selected from the above and sent as a travelling show
to Sweden in exchange for a Swedish Show. My entry
purchased by Swedish National Museum

Fifty Color Prints of the Year, 1933; Print Makers Society of Cal.

Second Annual Exhibition (Travelling) The Woodcut Society, 1934

NOTE: In addition to the above my prints were included in many of
the travelling exhibitions of the Cleveland Print Makers, the
American Federation of Art and the Cleveland Museum. My prints
were included in several editions of the "Print a Month" by the
Cleveland Print Makers. Also one print was included in the
New York World's Fair Show "American Art Today" and because of
that I sold three different prints to the Library of Congress.

Bibliography(?):

Very little has been written about my work. The
Museum Bulletin carried a nice blurb once and cuts have been used
in local papers. The Dayton Daily News ran a cut of my Sorghum
Mill, Tennessee³ that was a better reproduction than I can get
from the block most of the time. Norman Kent was supposed to be
publishing a book of linoleum cuts using one of mine, in 1939,
but I havenot seen it.

I did one color block print using eight blocks, and
on the strength of that was asked to be a charter member of the
Color Block Print Makers of America. Incidentially I made that
print while stranded on a farm in Kansas during the Depression

and the whole thing was registered and printed on a cider press with home made wood beds. I now have and use a reconstructed cider press with steel plates for formall my printing. The Woodcut Society Bulletin which accompanied their exhibition showing my color print compared it to paintings by Grant Wood. / Humph?

Print making is certainly a fine hobby, but it can hardly be more than that to most artists. I doubt that there are five artists in the country at this time that are making a decent living exclusively from print making, and probably there are none. Perhaps then, we should push it as a hobby, soft pedal the fine arts end, and try to get volumes of people interested in making prints as a hobby. Many of them might want to buy those made by artists, or indeed, many might develope into better artists than we have now. I wonder if it could be started in the hobby magazines.

All this merely means that I consider my print making as a swell hobby, and not to be taken too seriously as a Fine Art.

The Cleveland Museum has most of the prints that I have made, purchased through the Print Club. In all the years I have submitted prints there was only one that was not accepted, and I should have known better that send that one in. I have sent prints and water colors to dozens of exhibitions in the last ten years and at only one was something not accepted; and that was the Chicago Art Institute when they turned down my first prize prints from the May Show. Ha.

Phelps Cunningham

866 Helmsdale Rd.

September 12, 1941



May Show - Biographies - Cunningham, Phelps

Phelps Cunningham

Please return to Marie Kirkwood

The Cleveland Museum of Art

Phs Cunningham
34 Shattuck

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OF THE CLEVELAND
MUSEUM OF ART

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